

Division of Environment  
Curtis State Office Building  
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 400  
Topeka, KS 66612-1367



Phone: 785-296-1535  
Fax: 785-296-8464  
www.kdheks.gov

Robert Moser, MD, Secretary

Department of Health & Environment

Sam Brownback, Governor

April 17, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Environment endorses and supports the City of Wichita's Planning Application submitted in response to the Notice of Funding Availability for the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) National Infrastructure Investments, under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. This Notice announced the availability of \$35M to be awarded by USDOT for planning grants for infrastructure projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or a region.

Wichita has had difficulty maintaining air quality standards for several years. Much of that pollution is coming from carbon emissions produced by personal vehicles and freight truck movement in the area. With a growing population and manufacturing base, this problem will not be solved without a mitigating means of transport in the region, both passenger and freight. The introduction of passenger rail will not only reduce carbon emissions by reducing VMT, but will also upgrade freight infrastructure in the region. This could result in significant reductions in NOx and VOC vehicular emissions that contribute to the formation of ozone as this will encourage a shift from truck transport to rail transport. As a greener consumer of fuel and producer of emissions, the reintroduction of passenger rail to the area will help mitigate the growing air quality concerns for Wichita and South Central Kansas.

Therefore, the Division of Environment highly recommends that Wichita's application for Tier I and Tier II environmental reviews as well as preliminary engineering be approved and funded to complete the next phase in the development of this passenger rail corridor.

Respectfully,

John W. Mitchell  
Director, Division of Environment  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment